

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 01089 01 OF 02 310925Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----055551 310929Z /10

O P 301826Z MAR 78 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LUSAKA 1089

EXDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

LAGOS FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

RIO DE JANEIRO FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG SF WA
SUBJ: NAMIBIA: PRESENTATION OF PROPOSALS TO SWAPO

1. SUMMARY: LUSAKA CONTACT GROUP PRESENTED THE PROPOSAL TO
THREE MEMBERS OF SWAPO NEGOTIATING TEAM AFTER NUJOMA FAILED
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TO APPEAR AT TWO ATTEMPTS TO SET UP A MEETING TO INCLUDE HIM.
SWAPO APOLOGIZED FOR HIS ABSENCE AND REQUESTED THAT WE NOT
CONSIDER IT OR ANY DELAY IN RESPONDING TO THE PROPOSAL AS
A RESULT OF HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP AS AN INDICATION THAT IT DID
NOT TAKE THE PROPOSAL SERIOUSLY. THEY LISTENED TO THE PRESENTA-
TION OF MESSAGE AND TALKING POINTS BUT CONFINED THEIR REMARKS
TO WALVIS BAY, NOTING THAT PRESENCE OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS

THERE SURPASSED THE AGREED TOTAL OF 1500 AND REQUESTING A
REPLY TO THE QUESTION POSED TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG LAST WEEK
ON WALVIS BAY. WE BELIEVE AN EARLY RESPONSE TO THOSE QUESTIONS
IS IMPORTANT TO THE ONGOING PROCESS. END SUMMARY.

2. DCM CONTACTED SWAPO NEGOTIATING TEAM MEMBER HAMUTENYA MARCH
29 TO INFORM HIM THAT LUSAKA CONTACT GROUP WAS PREPARED TO
PRESENT THE FINAL PROPOSAL TO SWAPO AT 1500 ON THE 30TH.
HAMUTENYA WAS REQUESTED TO INFORM NUJOMA, AND SITE FOR CONFERENCE
WAS SHIFTED FROM EMBASSY TO BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION IN ORDER
TO ACCOMMODATE FULL SWAPO GROUP.

3. AT APPOINTED TIME AND PLACE SHIHEPO AND TJIRIANGE APPEARED
INFORMING LUSAKA CONTACT GROUP THAT THEY HAD BEEN DESIGNATED
TO RECEIVE PROPOSAL BY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AT MEETING DURING
MORNING. CG ASKED WHETHER NUJOMA HAD BEEN INFORMED OF THE MATTER
AND POINTED OUT THAT WE HAD HOPED FOR A FULL MEETING IN ORDER
TO DISCUSS IN SOME DETAIL THE PROVISIONS OF THE PROPOSAL WITH
SWAPO. SHIHEPO INDICATED IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT TO FIND NUJOMA
AND THAT HE WAS LEAVING THE CITY EARLY THE NEXT MORNING.
SUBSEQUENTLY HE PHONED TO SAY NUJOMA WAS NOT IN THE CITY.
IF WE WISHED TO PRESENT SWAPO WITH THE PROPOSAL IT WOULD HAVE
TO BE TO HIMSELF, TJIRIANGE AND HAMUTENYA.

4. THE LUSAKA CG CONSISTING OF THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR AS CHAIRMAN,
THE AMERICAN AND FRG AMBASSADORS, BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER AND
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CANADIAN POLITICAL OFFICER
MET WITH THE THREE AT 1800 MARCH 30. THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR
EXPLAINED THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THIS PROPOSAL AND MENTION-
ED OUR REGRET THAT PRESIDENT NUJOMA WAS NOT PRESENT. THE PRE-
SENTATION WAS BEING MADE ELSEWHERE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA TO
THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF BOTH FRONT LINE COUNTRIES AND SOUTH AFRICA.
HE PROCEEDED TO READ THE MESSAGE AND THEN HANDED OVER THE
PROPOSAL. WE REVIEWED THE APPROVED TALKING POINTS IN CONSIDER-
ABLE DETAIL AND ASKED THE SWAPO MEMBERS FOR ANY COMMENTS OR
QUESTIONS.

5. TJIRIANGE ANSWERED FOR THE GROUP, STATING THAT SWAPO WOULD
EXAMINE THE PROPOSAL CAREFULLY TO SEE WHAT IT ACCEPTED AND
WHAT IT DID NOT. HE RAISED THE SPECIFIC QUESTION OF WALVIS BAY,
NOTING THAT SWAPO HAD AGREED TO A TOKEN SOUTH AFRICAN FORCE OF
1500 IN THE COUNTRY. SINCE THE PROPOSAL DOES NOT ADDRESS WALVIS
BAY, THE TROOPS ALREADY PRESENT THERE WILL BE ADDED TO THE
MAXIMUM FIGURE SWAPO HAD AGREED TO. WE REPLIED THAT IT HAD
ALWAYS BEEN UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE WOULD BE SOME TROOPS IN
WALVIS BAY AND REPEATED THE ASSURANCE THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE
INCREASED.

6. TJIRIANGE ALSO RAISED THE QUESTION PUT TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG LAST WEEK OF WHETHER THE U.S. AND THE REST OF THE FIVE WOULD MAKE A STATEMENT DECLARING THEY CONSIDERED WALVIS BAY PART OF NAMIBIA. HE NOTED THAT SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 385 DEMANDS THE INDEPENDENCE OF NAMIBIA AS A WHOLE. NOTHING LESS THAN THAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO SWAPO. WE REPLIED THAT THE REQUEST TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG HAD ONLY BEEN MADE LAST WEEK. THE PROPOSAL WE WERE NOW GIVING THEM WAS A COMPLEX AND CAREFULLY NEGOTIATED DOCUMENT WHICH COULD NOT HAVE RESPONDED TO SO RECENT A QUESTION. THE PRESENT DOCUMENT THEREFORE IS NOT A RESPONSE TO THAT REQUEST. THE QUESTION WAS VERY MUCH UNDER CONSIDERATION AND WE WOULD REPLY TO IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 01089 02 OF 02 302040Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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O P 301826Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8032
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LUSAKA 1089

EXDIS

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7. HAMUTENYA PASSED ON PRESIDENT NUJOMA'S APOLOGIES FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO ATTEND THE MEETING. HE SAID THAT THE SWAPO LEADERSHIP HAD BEEN WAITING FOR OVER TWO WEEKS FOR US TO GIVE THEM THE PROPOSAL, AND THEY COULD NOT DELAY IMPORTANT BUSINESS WHICH THEY HAD BEFORE THEM. NUJOMA HAD MADE PLANS SOME TIME AGO TO VISIT A FARM 45 MILES FROM LUSAKA. HAMUTENYA ADDED THAT NUJOMA
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MUST LEAVE TOMORROW ON A LENGTHY TRIP WHICH MIGHT MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO RESPOND SOON TO OUR PROPOSAL. HOWEVER HE EMPHASIZED THAT WE SHOULD NOT INTERPRET NUJOMA'S ABSENCE FROM THE MEETING NOR ANY DELAY IN RESPONDING TO THE PROPOSAL AS FAILURE TO RECONGIZE ITS IMPORTANCE.

8. THE CG ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME DELAY IN PRESENTING THE PROPOSAL. NEVERTHELESS IT EXPRESSED ITS DIS-APPOINTMENT THAT NUJOMA COULD NOT BE PRESENT AND ITS HOPE THAT THE ORAL POINTS MADE WOULD BE PASSED ON TO HIM. IT WAS CONCERNED THAT THE IMPRESSION GIVEN BY HIS ABSENCE MIGHT BE MISUNDERSTOOD. THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN AT ANY LENGTHY DELAY IN RESPONDING TO THE PROPOSAL IN VIEW OF THE DANGER THAT SOUTH AFRICA MIGHT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE INTERVAL TO MOVE AHEAD WITH ITS PLANS FOR AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT.

9. THE CG ASKED WHETHER, IN VIEW OF NUJOMA'S DEPARTURE TOMORROW MORNING, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO GET SOME INDICATION FROM SWAPO OF HOW AND WHEN IT INTENDED TO RESPOND. SWAPO MEMBERS INDICATED THEY HOPED TO BE ABLE TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH NUJOMA AND THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL THIS EVENING AND THEY WOULD DO WHAT THEY COULD TO FACILITATE AN EARLY RESPONSE.

10. COMMENT: NUJOMA'S ABSENCE FROM THE MEETING MAY IN PART BE DUE TO THE FACT THAT, AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, SWAPO HAD ALREADY RECEIVED THE PROPOSAL FROM THE ZAMBIANS THE NIGHT BEFORE. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND HE WAS IRRITATED BY THE CONTINUAL DELAYS IN PRESENTING IT. THESE FACTORS, BESIDES THE NEED TO GET ON WITH VARIOUS OBLIGATIONS BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE TOMORROW, PROBABLY CAUSED HIM TO DECIDE TO SKIP THE MEETING. NO MATTER HOW YOU EXPLAIN IT HOWEVER THE FACT IS NUJOMA DID NOT TAKE IT SERIOUSLY ENOUGH TO BE PRESENT NOR TO SEND MORE THAN THREE OF THE MEMBERS OF HIS NEGOTIATING TEAM.

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11. SWAPO APPARENTLY ATTACHES CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO THE QUESTIONS WHICH NUJOMA ASKED AMBASSADOR YOUNG LAST WEEK. OUR

RESPONSE WILL HAVE AN IMPORTANT EFFECT ON THEIR CONSIDERATION
OF THE PROPOSALS. IF WE CAN RESPOND POSITIVELY, AN EARLY REPLY
WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE A USEFUL INFLUENCE ON SWAPO'S RESPONSE TO
THE PROPOSALS. LOW

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